

SITUATION REPORT NO. 23
INCIDENT NO. 2001 - 005
DATE: June 8, 2001 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The current level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay is 1447.61 feet above mean sea level (msl), a drop of 0.17 feet from the highest level so far in 2001. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), Devils Lake has reached its peak level from spring runoff, but that does not mean that its peak has been reached for the summer. The NWS Long Range Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services outlook indicates there is a 50 percent chance Devils Lake may rise above 1,448.00 ft msl and a 20 percent chance it will rise above 1,448.20 ft msl through mid September. The outlook also indicates the Lake is expected to reach its peak level this summer from mid to late July. The latest 30-day climate outlook for the Devils Lake area in June calls for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The current level of Stump Lake is 1411.48 ft msl.

The City of Garrison has experienced damage to several streets due to spring flooding and high water tables.

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

FEMA-1376-DR-ND

The Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (IHMT) comprised of state and federal agencies met June 5 to review results of the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) conducted earlier this spring by federal, state, and local officials. Since the Presidential Disaster does not include Individual Assistance Programs, the team focused on identifying funding sources to assist individuals affected by flooding or high water tables. The North Dakota Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters will meet at 11:00 a.m. on June 13 in Fargo at the Cass-Clay American Red Cross Office for the purpose of identifying available funding sources to assist individual needs.

On June 6, State and FEMA personnel attended a kickoff meeting in which priorities, objectives, and action plans were discussed for FEMA-1376-DR-ND.

State and federal tribal liaison staff met with the Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa on June 7 to discuss both the continuing mold problem and the Public Assistance Program under the new disaster declaration. Later, a meeting was held with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent of the Turtle Mountain Indian Agency concerning funding for dealing with the mold issue. Liaison staff also met with the Chairman of Spirit Lake Nation to discuss the Public Assistance Program.

On June 11, five community relations teams comprised of state and federal personnel will begin to canvass the 27 declared counties and two reservations. The mission involves meeting with emergency managers and local officials to clarify questions concerning implementation of the Public Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) this week received a copy of a disaster declaration for the city of McClusky in Sheridan County.

State Flood Coordination Meeting, May 31, 2001

North Dakota Emergency Management staff facilitated introductions of the 26 meeting participants attending the third State Flood Coordination Center meeting of 2001. Group discussion took place as follows:

N.D. State Water Commission (SWC)

- Hydrologic Update

Following is a summary of condition for Devils Lake and Stump Lake:

Devils Lake Elevation as of May 30	-	1,447.7 feet
Area of lake	-	129,000 acres
Volume of lake	-	2.52 million acre-feet
Stump Lake Elevation as of April 11	-	1,411.2 feet
Area of lake	-	7,730 acres
Volume of lake	-	119,500 acre-feet
Lake Alice elevation as of April 11	-	1,447.7 feet

SWC engineers are fairly certain that the spring runoff has finished, and that Devils Lake may have reached its peak at 1,447.8 feet. The remaining question centers on how much precipitation the basin receives in the upcoming summer months. Devils Lake could see a dramatic reduction in elevation by freeze-up, if the lake falls short of 1,448 feet and remains at or around the 1,447.7 feet elevation, and the basin receives less than normal precipitation and above normal evaporation for the upcoming months. Conversely, if Devils Lake receives above normal precipitation and below normal evaporation, Devils Lake could rise above 1,448 feet or remain around 1,447.7 feet.

- Flows to Stump Lake

Water is flowing from Devils Lake through the Jerusalem Coulee to Stump Lake. Aerial photographs taken on April 24 showed a continuous water surface through the sloughs east and west of the divide. Local residents also reported water was beginning to flow east in the area around the same time

these photos were taken. An engineer also stream gauged the area on May 10, and measured approximately 15 cubic feet per second (cfs) flowing at the divide. Currently, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is recording a flow of approximately 20 cfs.

- Temporary Emergency Outlet Project

The SWC is continuing work on a temporary emergency outlet. At the State Water Commission meeting on May 22, commission members unanimously voted to switch the location for the state's temporary project to the Peterson Coulee area. The money previously allocated (\$500,000) for the Twin Lakes Project will now be used for preliminary design and engineering for the Peterson Coulee Project.

SWC engineers will continue to work with the U.S. Army of Engineers on the Environmental Impact Studies. The studies being completed between now and next summer will be used in determining the most viable project.

Devils Lake State Parks

Information for current flood losses in State Parks in the Devils Lake area is listed as follows:

- Grahams Island State Park

Damages from the spring runoff and current lake level include one park residence where a large amount of ground water seepage has been occurring for approximately one month. The approximate value of the residence is \$75,000. The basement elevation is 1,447.8 feet. A claim was submitted for coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The lift station for the loop A comfort station and trailer dump station is currently flooded with lake and ground water. The elevation of the top of the lift station is 1,451.1 feet, and the bottom elevation is 1,437.7 feet. The value of these two facilities, the dump station and the lift station, is \$40,000. The value of the comfort station is \$100,000. The comfort station is not functional without use of the lift station.

Two electrical campsites and 10 primitive campsites are currently flooded. The lake also floods two short segments of the campground road. Losses in these areas are estimated to be approximately \$2,500.

- Shelvers Grove State Recreation Area

Parks officials are not experiencing any flood damages in Shelvers Grove at this time. The lake is within six inches of flooding the campground road. Some erosion damage has occurred to the campground entrance road, which will require adding riprap protection.

- Black Tiger Bay State Recreation Area

Devils Lake waters are beginning to flood the boat ramp parking area. A contractor will begin a grade raise project for this area next week. The project will include the grade raise, graveling and riprap for a cost of \$15,000. The N.D. Game and Fish Department is providing funding for this project.

N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT), Devils Lake District

- Bids were received in the fall of 1999 for a special contract to perform emergency riprap repairs on all the area lake crossings if high winds cause erosion, damage to riprap, or heavy debris deposition. The contractor on this project will be required to react on very short notice to make necessary emergency repairs. DOT officials report that damage in past windstorms has been fixed through this contract (\$15,500). This project has been extended, and the contractor is currently conducting \$230,000 in further repair on the inslopes near Tokio.
- The grade raises on N.D. Highway 20 at Mission Bay and Black Tiger Bay were completed and paved.
- DOT officials place the cost for Devils Lake area road improvements at \$52,399,933 for the 2001 and 2002 construction seasons.
- Grade raises are taking place at four locations on N.D. Highway 19. Two locations (Six Mile Bay and Mauvais Coulee) require new bridges. New structures are 15 to 17 feet higher than existing structures. The highway has been closed for construction, and detour roads are in use at the present time. Construction crews are elevating bridges and roads as follows: the bridge to 1,465 feet and the roadway to 1,455 feet at the Mauvais Coulee area; the highway to 1,455 feet at approximately 5,800 feet east of U.S. Highway 281; the bridge to 1,465 feet and the roadway to 1,455 feet at Six Mile Bay; and the roadway to 1,455 feet from Creel Bay to the airport.
- The DOT let a contract to relocate N.D. Highway 1 at Stump Lake in May to KGM Construction. This project will be closed to traffic once water is endangering the road. Traffic will be rerouted to County Roads 35 and 4. Crews will elevate the roadway to 1,455 feet, east of the present location in the Stump Lake area. DOT officials attended a Nelson County commission meeting and briefed commissioners on the project status.
- U.S. Highway 2, west of Devils Lake, remains open to traffic during construction. Crews are elevating the bridge to 1,467.7 feet and the roadway to 1,455 feet at Mauvais Coulee near Churchs Ferry. This project was let to contract on April 20, 2001. There will be head-to-head traffic on the west bound lane beginning on June 4-5.
- DOT officials plan to repave U.S. Highway 2 in 2002, from its junction with U.S. Highway 281 through Devils Lake to N.D. Highway 19. A public hearing for the project and two input meetings have been held. DOT staff members are addressing frontage road right-of-way issues. A grade raise at Channel A is planned for the 2002 construction season, pending any future lake rises.
- On N.D. Highway 20, crews are elevating the bridge to 1,465 feet and the roadway to 1,455 feet from the junction of N. D. Hwy 57 east across Devils Lake. The roadway will be closed during construction season, and alternate routes will be available. Construction is scheduled to start on June 11.
- DOT officials plan to let a contract in June for N.D. Highway 57, from Fort Totten Bay to the Ski Jump Road, also referred to as Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Road 15. The roadway will be elevated to 1,456 feet. Alternate routes will be provided on BIA Routes 7, 6 and 15.

The contractor was scheduled to start work on June 4 on U.S. Highway 281. Plans call for adding three feet of low density fill on top of the present bridge and raising the roadway to approximately 1,451 feet at Mauvais Coulee. Detour routes are planned for N.D. Highways 19 and 30 and U.S. Highway 2.

N.D. Highway Patrol

- The N.D. Highway Patrol continues to work closely with all agencies in an attempt to effectively cope with the rising water level of Devils Lake. An ongoing exchange of information has been maintained between the Highway Patrol, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Benson County Sheriff's Office and the N.D. Department of Transportation.
- Of primary concern is the pending grade raises of N.D. Highway 19 at three separate locations west of Devils Lake; N.D. Highway 57 near Ft. Totten; and U.S. Highway 2 at Churchs Ferry. An alternate route has been established by the DOT in response to the closing of N.D. Highway 19.
- Troopers will routinely patrol construction areas.
- Due to the rising water of Devils Lake, the Highway Patrol's response time for emergency calls will be delayed when dispatching officers out of the Devils Lake area to Benson County. This is inherent to the current situation and cannot be avoided.
- People fishing from N.D. Highway 20 bridge (the Narrows Crossing) south of Devils Lake will be monitored to ensure that the roadway remains open for safe travel. Troopers have received numerous complaints about unlawfully parked vehicles and pedestrian traffic at the Woods-Rutten Road crossing, east of Devils Lake and south of the Hefti Rest Area. These areas are posted "No Parking." Troopers will deal with situations on a case-by-case basis.

North Central Planning Council

- North Central Planning Council (NCPC) is currently completing demolition on the acquired properties funded under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) in the city of Churchs Ferry.
- NCPC has submitted an HMGP application for acquisition of approximately 27 rural homes in the Chain Lakes and Mauvais Coulee areas. Cost sharing is as follows: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 75 percent; the State of North Dakota, 10 percent; and the owner, 15 percent. Approximately \$1,620,000 will be obligated for the project when approved, titled Ramsey Rural Buyout.
- NCPC has submitted an HMGP application for the BTR Farmers Cooperative to acquire and relocate its facilities from its flood-threatened location in Churchs Ferry.
- NCPC had committed \$90,000 and has added an additional \$8,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the local match for the city of Minnewaukan's renovation of water and sewer lines. FEMA is contributing approximately \$1.5 million.

Agriculture Mediation Services, N.D. Department of Agriculture

- Prevented planting north of N.D. Highway 15 in eastern North Dakota could be as high as 50 percent, and south of the highway, about 10 percent. Last year, little prevented planting occurred but crops later flooded out. Meanwhile, pastures are in good shape and most cattle are out to pasture.

Lake Region Human Service Center (LRHSC)

- Mental health professionals note that it has become increasingly difficult to assess the human impact of flooding in the Devils Lake Basin.
- In flood-related meetings LRHSC members have attended, there appears to be a trend of increasing anxiety, and, at times, anger, which has been verbalized by participants. Staff members have no reason to believe that anticipatory stress has diminished, and is likely to increase. The concurrent farm crisis also remains present as some farmers struggle to plant crops. LRHSC, which covers six counties and two reservation, presently has the highest suicide completion rate per capita in North Dakota, and there are consistent, marked increases in completed suicides across North Dakota since 1993. Areas served by LRHSC include Rolette, Towner, Cavalier, Benson, Ramsey, Wells and Eddy counties and two reservations, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Nation.

N.D. Game and Fish Department

Work continues to keep the public boat launching sites on Devils Lake functional. Updates are as follows:

- Minnewaukan Site
The Game and Fish Department is providing funding for gravel and riprap maintenance at this site. The Department is waiting for the 404 permit to install a second lane to the existing boat ramp.
- East Bay Site
This site has been raised, graveled and riprapped. The tops of the boat ramps at this site are 1,450.4 to 1,451.4 feet.
- Creel Bay Site
The existing concrete boat ramp has been extended from an elevation of 1,450 to 1,455 feet.
- Six Mile Bay Site
The Game and Fish Department installed a new, poured concrete ramp with a top elevation of 1,452.4 feet.
- Black Tiger Bay Site
The Department is providing funding to State Parks for maintenance work.

North Dakota National Guard

- The rip-rapped protected shoreline at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton has five feet of freeboard. No erosion has occurred to date. Last year, the National Guard completed a \$1.3 million shoreline stabilization project along Avenue A.

N.D. Insurance Department

- The Insurance Department has no direct involvement with either the National Flood or Federal Crop Insurance issues due to the fact the agency is pre-empted by federal law. However, staff members want to keep informed, so they are monitoring the situation and are available to help consumers with any other insurance issues that might arise.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Paul District

- USACE engineers have been working with the Spirit Lake Tribe on raising emergency levees protecting the reservation. Plans call for work to start by June 11.
- The USACE is also working with officials for Minnewaukan and North Central Planning Council to develop a flood protection plan for the city. Efforts include to identifying a long-term protection project and potential emergency assistance under the USACE's emergency authorities.
- Environmental impact studies related to a potential outlet for Devils Lake are continuing. Public meetings on the status of these studies are scheduled for late summer.
- The USACE has placed on hold an emergency protection project to assist Ramsey County Rural Utilities (RCRU) with a critical sewer line in the Lakewood. The sewer line is at 1,448 feet.
- The USACE has received a request from the State to develop plans and specifications for raising the lake level protection system for the city of Devils Lake to 1,460 feet, which is three feet higher than the current levee. USACE officials are currently reviewing the request to determine a schedule for accomplishing the work and source of funding.
- USACE officials continue to work on close-out actions for current levee raise project.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- FEMA disaster workers plan to be in the field, along with state representatives, by mid-June to assist with recovery efforts. Staff members have arrived in Bismarck to help with logistics and advance work. A Disaster Field Office (DFO) will be located in Bismarck, and an Infrastructure Forward Element is planned for Devils Lake.

Spirit Lake Nation

- Due to the current lake level, the water table has risen, flooding basements of 15 homes throughout Spirit Lake Nation. This high water table has also caused the main cement slabs on 12 homes to raise, resulting in damages to the homes, which are located in Fort Totten. In the town of Warwick, approximately 20 homes have water in the basements. Pumps have been unable to keep up with the volume of water. The level of the water table has

also caused damages to parking lots located at Dakota Tribal Industries, Sioux Manufacturing and Paul's Grocery.

- The roads located on Spirit Lake Nation also have been damaged by floodwaters. Approximately 1.5 miles of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Route 24, north of Fort Totten, is underwater. BIA Route 6 has lost three-eighths of a mile to floodwaters.
- North of Fort Totten, approximately 600 acres of land were lost due to rising Devils Lake floodwaters. This is the same area in which BIA Route 24 is located.
- Spirit Lake Nation has levees located throughout the reservation, and the USACE and the Spirit Lake Tribe plan to work on raising those levees beginning June 11, 2001. The current levels of those levees are 1,450 to 1,450.5 feet.
- The continued rise of Devils Lake could cause water damages to more homes and roads throughout the reservation. As each day passes, community members are notifying the Emergency Manager's office of the damages to their homes.

City of Minnewaukan

- Devils Lake floodwaters are encroaching on the city of Minnewaukan and are flowing into the school football field.
- Work continues on repair of the city's water and sewer infrastructure. Individual sewer service lines that connect to the city's sewer lines will be repaired this summer.

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC)

- Ice movement during the spring thaw caused the failure of approximately 20 distribution poles throughout the NPEC system. Central Power Electric Cooperative also lost several transmission poles to ice this spring.
- Water from Devils Lake has moved into an area north of Fort Totten, placing an additional three miles of single-phase line in water. The roads in the area are also under water, which will make it difficult to maintain the line. NPEC will address this problem this summer and take appropriate action. In addition to serving customers in the area north of Fort Totten, this line also is the alternate feed into the Grahams Island area.
- NPEC estimates that at least 10 customers will have to relocate or abandon their homes as a result of rising water this summer.

Ramsey County Rural Utilities (RCRU)

- RCRU will be installing a new waterline across Six Mile Bay in conjunction with the road raise. The new waterline will allow continued service to residences west of Six Mile Bay, including Grahams Island State Park.
- In connection with a road raise in the area, the utility is also raising some of its infrastructure on N.D. Highway 19 near the City of Devils Lake's levee.
- The utility is working on capping waterline and relocating service lines in several areas near the lake. Capping of waterlines underneath Devils Lake

will reduce water loss for the system due to the numerous abandoned water connections beneath the lake and the inability to detect leaks in the water.

- Work is also progressing on capping areas of the sewer system that are continuing to take on excess water. Over the past several years of continued flooding, digging and capping of sewer lines within the system has resulted in a large amount of silt and sedimentation being injected into the system. The design of the system does not provide water flow velocity great enough to carry these particles away, thus resulting in several areas being impacted with large amounts of sediment deposits.
- A project to protect the sewer system in the Lakewood area will take place late this summer, unless it is required sooner. Delay of the project will allow continued use of roads that will be impacted by the project through most of the summer.

Nelson County Emergency Management

- Devils Lake floodwaters continue to flow to Stump Lake. Nelson County officials estimate that 20 cfs is flowing through a 36-inch culvert in between County Road 27 and 23.
- Stump Lake continues to rise, threatening N.D. Highway 1. Workers for the Devils Lake District of the DOT have responded by placing signs and taking other appropriate action. Wave action and pavement break-up continue to impact this road.
- Due to the high water elevation along numerous roads in Nelson County, the biggest need is for riprap to help reduce the damages from wave action. Fire districts may need to be changed due to infrastructure-related problems.
- The county extension agent reported that seeding continues to progress, although wet weather has caused some delays. Producers have cut back on acres based on concerns related to payment of cash rent and higher costs of anhydrous, fuel and chemicals. Production acres have been reduced due to enrollment in farm programs like Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and water storage programs. Vector control may be a concern, and the number of wood ticks seems to have risen.
- Nelson County residents have been experiencing problems related to flooding and high water tables. In the city of Michigan, individuals are addressing mold problems. Despite cross-ventilation techniques, dehumidifiers and extensive cleaning, the sooty-like mold keeps recurring. The individuals were referred to an air quality control expert through the N.D. Department of Health. A Central Township family has been having problems with its power lines and its sewer system. The power company will be changing their service lines due to the high water conditions. A family in Neshiem Township reports that high water tables are causing problems with its septic system. High water levels at Twin Lakes are causing access problems to a Melvin Township residence.

Ramsey County Emergency Management

- The Ramsey County Emergency Manager has received several phone calls from individuals experiencing problems related to wells, sewers, road access, very saturated yards and wet basements.

- Staffs from the county highway department and the emergency management office are notifying city and township officials about the Public Assistance applicant briefing set for June 8 in Grafton.
- Underground hydrostatic pressure seems to be affecting several areas in the City of Devils Lake. Testing wells are showing very high ground saturation throughout the city, and damage is occurring to parking lots, roads and buildings.
- Local business owners are concerned about the economic impact resulting from nine consecutive years of flooding in the Devils Lake area. The city will be negatively impacted by road construction throughout the entire construction season. Every major roadway except N.D. Highway 20, north of Devils Lake, will be undergoing major constructions, affecting travelers coming to Devils Lake.
- Officials are also concerned about delayed response by emergency service vehicles because of road closings and detour routes.
- Structures continue to be moved on the shoreline of Devils Lake, primarily through the NFIP endorsement program. Several subdivisions again in 2001 will be inundated by Devils Lake floodwaters.

General Discussion

North Dakota Emergency Management will send a notice for the next meeting to all SFCC participants.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director